

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

This document invention relates to a branching device ~~(1, 25)~~ for at least one electric line. The branching device exhibits branching contacts and a housing ~~(2)~~ in which at least one electrically conducting wire terminal ~~(11)~~ is accommodated in a holder ~~(10, 26)~~. The device is characterized ~~characterised~~ in that contact lips ~~(44, 46)~~ with cutting edges ~~(48)~~ for cutting through the insulation ~~(25)~~ of the wires ~~(50)~~ of the electric line are provided on the wire terminals ~~(11)~~, in that the wire terminals ~~(11)~~ represent the branching contacts and in that a through-channel ~~(47)~~ for the uninterrupted passage of a wire ~~(50)~~ is provided in each wire terminal ~~(11)~~.